

Response To Office Action
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REMARKS

The Office Action has been received and reviewed. In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 12-14, 16, 20, 27-30, 41 and 44 were rejected. Claims 2-4, 6-11, 15, 17-19, 21-26, 31-40, 42, 43 and 45-47 were objected to. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims in order to expedite issuance of a Notice Of Allowance, and no other reason should be attributed to the amendments. In particular, the amendments to the claims should not be viewed as agreeing (a) that the Section 101 rejections are appropriate or warranted, or (b) that Hedloy is a proper foundation on which to base a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In view of the amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

1. Rejection Of Claims 1, 16 and 44.

At section 4 of the Office Action, it was argued that claims 1, 16, and 44 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant disagrees and believes the arguments provided for the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection do not support rejection of the claims. However, in an effort to gain a Notice Of Allowance expeditiously, applicant has amended claims 1, 16 and 44 to comply with the examiner's request. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection be withdrawn.

2. Rejection Of Claims 1, 16, 30, 41 and 44

At section 13 of the Office Action, claims 1, 16, 30, 41 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,853 (Hedloy). Claims 1, 16, 30, 41 and

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44 have been amended herein to include the limitations of claims 2, 17, 31, 42 and 46 respectively. Claims 2, 17, 31, 42 and 46 were deemed allowable in the Office Action. Consequently, claims 1, 16, 30, 41 and 44 are now allowable.

Since the limitations of claims 2, 17, 31, 42 and 46 now appear in the claim from which they originally depended, claims 2, 17, 31, 42 and 46 have been cancelled. Additional changes to the claims have been made to reflect that claims 2, 17, 31, 42 and 46 have been cancelled.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 30, 41 and 44 in an effort to gain a Notice Of Allowance expeditiously. No other reason should be attributed to the amendments of these claims. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection be withdrawn.

3. Rejection Of Claims 5, 12-14, 20 and 27-29.

At section 26 of the Office Action, claims 5, 12-14, 20 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,853 (Hedloy). Claims 5, 12-14, 20 and 27-29 are dependent claims. The claims from which these claims depend have been amended herein to include limitations from a claim that was deemed allowable. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 12-14, 20 and 27-29 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted a full and complete response to the Office

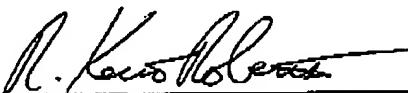
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Action has been made. The claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicant believes that no fee is due with this Response. If a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2442. Further, Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to file this Response. However, if an extension of time is needed, please consider this as a petition for an extension of time necessary to enter this Response.

The Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney if any questions remain following review of this response. If it will help, the undersigned is willing to explain by telephone or in person, the reasons the claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,


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